



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
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August 14, 2020

VIA SHAREPOINT

The Division of Administrative Law
1020 Florida Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: *In the Matter of Jacquetta Grayson*
Agency Tracking No.: 2019-750

Dear Ms. Duhon:

Please file the attached *Charges*.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 225-219-5619, and thank you.

Kindest regards,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Elizabeth Barrouquere
Staff Paralegal

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Jacquetta Grayson (via certified mail no. 7019112079862895)

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

STATE OF LOUISIANA
THE LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

IN THE MATTER OF

* DOCKET NO. 2020-_____-ETHICS__
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JACQUETTA GRAYSON

* AGENCY TRACKING NO. 2019-750

CHARGES

The Louisiana Board of Ethics (“BOE”) voted on August 6, 2020 to and **DOES HEREBY** file the following charges:

1.

Jacquetta Grayson (“Ms. Grayson”) commenced her employment as the Clerk for the Village of Clarence on July 1, 2016. As the Village of Clarence Clerk, Ms. Grayson’s duties included: 1) receiving payments from the public for water, sewer, and traffic violations; 2) recording public meetings; 3) keeping the Village of Clarence ledgers; and, 4) other general clerical duties. Ms. Grayson reported directly to then-Mayor Tommy Evans (“Mr. Evans”) as the Village Clerk.

2.

Ms. Grayson’s first stint as Village Clerk ended on September 1, 2017, after she submitted her letter of resignation on August 29, 2017.

3.

Ms. Grayson’s second stint as Village of Clarence Clerk began on November 13, 2017, after Mr. Evans informed the Village of Clarence Board of Alderman, via letter correspondence, that Ms. Grayson was rehired as Clerk. Subsequently, on January 30, 2018, Ms. Grayson submitted a second letter of resignation to Mr. Evans and the Village of Clarence Board of Alderman, stating that her last day would be February 2, 2018.

4.

As of March 7, 2018, the Village of Clarence had not yet filled the Clerk position previously vacated by Ms. Grayson. As a result, in letter correspondence addressed to the Village of Clarence, Mr. Evans stated that Ms. Grayson “has agreed to perform all clerical/administrative duties of the clerk beginning Thursday, March 8, 2018. She has agreed to help until a new clerk is hired and she is also willing to train the new clerk.” This marked the beginning of Ms. Grayson’s third stint as the Village of Clarence Clerk, albeit on a contractual basis.

5.

The Village of Clarence hired a new Clerk, who resigned shortly after being hired. As a result, in letter correspondence dated May 23, 2018, Mr. Evans informed the Village of Clarence that Ms. Grayson would be rehired as the Village Clerk after the resignation of the recently hired Clerk on May 11, 2018. This letter correspondence marked the end of Ms. Grayson’s provision of Village Clerk services on a contractual basis and marked the beginning of Ms. Grayson’s return to employment as the Clerk.

6.

On December 24, 2018, Ms. Grayson submitted her fourth and final resignation as Village Clerk.

7.

On December 24, 2018, Mr. Evans authorized the issuance of a check (Check No. 6359) in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be made payable to the Clerk of the Village of Clarence, Jacquetta Grayson (“Ms. Grayson”). Mr. Evans stated that the \$5,000.00 check was issued to Ms. Grayson as a severance package.

8.

Despite Mr. Evans' representation to the contrary, the Village of Clarence attorney did not approve the issuance of the \$5,000.00 payment to Ms. Grayson. Additionally, the Village of Clarence Village Council did not approve the issuance of the payment. Furthermore, the Village of Clarence's Employee Handbook does not provide for the issuance of severance payments upon termination of public employment.

Prohibited Payment

9.

La. R.S. 42:1111(A)(1)(a) provides the following:

No public servant shall receive anything of economic value, other than compensation and benefits from the governmental entity to which he is duly entitled, for the performance of the duties and responsibilities of his office or position.

10.

Based on the foregoing facts, Ms. Grayson violated La. R.S. 42:1111(A)(1)(a) by virtue of her receipt of the \$5,000.00 check, to which she was not duly entitled to receive for the performance of her duties and responsibilities as Clerk for the Village of Clarence.

Prohibited Transaction

11.

La. R.S. 42:1113(A)(1)(a) provides the following:

No public servant, excluding any legislator and any appointed member of any board or commission and any member of a governing authority of a parish with a population of ten thousand or less, or member of such a public servant's immediate family, or legal entity in which he has a controlling interest shall bid on or enter into any contract, subcontract, or other transaction that is under the supervision, or jurisdiction of the agency of such public servant.

12.

Based on the foregoing facts, Ms. Grayson violated La. R.S. 42:1113(A)(1)(a) by virtue of her receipt of the \$5,000.00 check, which constituted a prohibited transaction with her agency, the Village of Clarence.

Violation of Two Year Post-Employment Restriction

13.

La. R.S. 42:1121(A)(1) provides the following:

No former agency head or elected official shall, for a period of two years following the termination of his public service as the head of such agency or as an elected public official serving in such agency, assist another person, for compensation, in a transaction, or in an appearance in connection with a transaction, involving that agency or render any service on a contractual basis to or for such agency.

14.

La. R.S. 42:1121(B)(1) provides the following:

No former public employee shall, for a period of two years following the termination of his public employment, assist another person, for compensation, in a transaction, or in an appearance in connection with a transaction in which such former public employee participated at any time during his public employment and involving the governmental entity by which he was formerly employed, or for a period of two years following termination of his public employment, render, any service which such former public employee had rendered to the agency during the term of his public employment on a contractual basis, regardless of the parties to the contract, to, for, or on behalf of the agency with which he was formerly employed.

15.

Based on the foregoing facts, Ms. Grayson violated La. R.S. 42:1121(A)(1) or La. R.S. 42:1121(B)(1) by virtue of her provision of Village of Clarence Clerk services on a contractual basis within two (2) years of the termination of her public employment as Village Clerk.

The Applicable Penalty Provisions

16.

With respect to penalties, **La. R.S. 42:1153(B)** provides, in pertinent part:

Upon a determination that any public employee or other person has violated any provision of any law within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics ..., the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may remove, suspend, or order a reduction in pay, or demotion of the public employee or other person, or impose a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.

17.

La. R.S. 42:1155(A) further provides, in pertinent part:

If an investigation conducted pursuant to this Part reveals that any public servant or other person has violated any law within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics to his economic advantage, and after an adjudicatory hearing on the matter, the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may order the payment of penalties. Recovery may include, in addition to an amount equal to such economic advantage, penalties not to exceed one half of the amount of the economic advantage.

18.

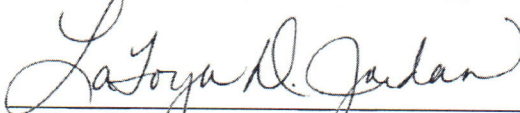
In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141(C)(3)(b)(iv), the BOE designates LaToya D. Jordan and Tracy M. Barker as the BOE's trial attorneys in this matter.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Board of Ethics respectfully requests that the Ethics Adjudicatory Board: (1) conduct a hearing on the foregoing charge; (2) determine that Jacquetta

Grayson violated La. R.S. 42:1111(A)(1)(a), La. R.S. 42:1113(A)(1)(a), and La. R.S. 42:1121; and, (3) assess the appropriate penalties in accordance with the recommendation of the Louisiana Board of Ethics to be submitted during the public hearing on this matter or at another time deemed appropriated by the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS



LaToya D. Jordan, on behalf of the Board

P.O. Box 4368

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Telephone: (225) 219-5600

Facsimile: (225) 381-7271

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

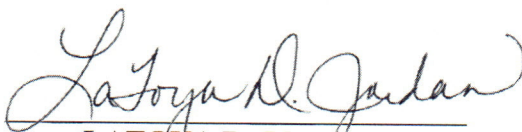
I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing *Charges* have been served on the Respondent by U.S. Registered or Certified Mail this 14th day of August 2020.

RESPONDENT:

Jacquetta Grayson

P.O. Box 403

Clarence, Louisiana 71414



LATOYA D. JORDAN

Trial Attorney